

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 25 House Office Building

January 31, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair
Rep. Mike McKell, House Vice Chair
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Jerry Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brian Greene
Rep. Ken Ivory
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Lee B. Perry
Rep. Jon Stanard
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. John L. Valentine

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Margaret Dayton

STAFF: Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist
Ms. Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mathis called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

2. PUBLIC LANDS OFFICE

Ms. Oh reviewed the Budget Brief, "Public Lands Policy Coordination Office." Public Lands Policy Coordination Office (PLPCO) was created in 2005 and primarily focuses on four key areas: R.S. 2477, federal land management and decision making, transfer of public lands (H.B. 148), and archaeological assistance and permitting. PLPCO has provided high level performance measures as follows: (1) "Rights-of-Way Validation Program - Litigation," a litigation effort to validate approximately 12,000 roads in the state which is estimated to take roughly 20 years to reach final resolution; (2) "Rights-of-Way Validation Program," an effort to acquire evidence to support validation of rights-of-way by deposing witnesses with knowledge of specific rights-of-way; (3) "Review of and Response to Federal Plans and Projects on Federal Lands." The state has an interest in participating in the creation and review of plans for resource utilization and in assisting with environmental and economic review of projects by federal land management agencies. PLPCO coordinates review of these projects and plans; and (4) "Archaeological Permitting," showing the number of requests for permits that have been resolved in a timely manner.

Agency Presentation

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Director, PLPCO, was assisted by Sandy Naegle, Financial Manager. The mission of PLPCO is to preserve and defend rights to use, access, and benefit from Utah's public lands. Ms. Clarke focused on R.S. 2477, outlining efforts to validate public access to federal lands through state and county owned rights-of-way. The efforts include witness depositions, county record searches, aerial photography, and USGA mapping. Director Clarke touched upon challenges the office is facing including access to public lands, endangered species, oil shale, and grazing. She asked for support for the base budget funding, Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan funding, non-lapsing authority for all unspent funds in the 2013 PLPCO budget, and intent language to purchase a new vehicle. Director Clarke responded to questions and concerns.

3. UTAH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Djambov discussed Budget Brief, "Utah Geological Survey." The Utah Geological Survey (UGS) provides timely, scientific information about Utah's geologic environment, resources, and hazards. The division does not have regulatory power except in areas concerning paleontology but must "assist," "advise," and "cooperate with" other groups. The Analyst recommends a total appropriation to the division of \$8,168,100 for FY2014. Following are the top measures chosen by division management to gauge the success of its program: publications, hazardous events, and spending on assessing energy and mineral resources.

In discussing the document, "Division of Utah Geological Survey, Budget Details Over Time," Mr. Djambov addressed line item "GFR - Land Exchange Distribution," commenting on the decline in the revenues in this account. The funding that goes into the Land Exchange Distribution Account (LEDA) comes from royalties extractive industries are paying on the lands that the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) exchanged with the federal government a few years ago. In the last year and in the coming few years, the revenues to this account have and will be significantly reduced due to a decline in the extraction of coal and the low natural gas prices. In FY 2008, UGS received about \$2 million from LEDA; the projections for FY 2013 and FY 2014 are for only around \$50,000 per year. Mr. Kevin Carter, Director, SITLA, was requested to respond to questions regarding this reduction.

Agency Presentation

Director Rick Allis, State Geologist, introduced Ms. Kathi Galusha, Financial Manager, and Mr. Kimm Harty, Deputy Director, who distributed handouts. The division tries to help with wise land use decisions by providing information about geologic resources, quantities, hazards, and geologic environments such as ground water. Director Allis addressed issues related to: staffing, flat salaries, promotions, hazardous events, mapping, geologic commodity production and funding for Snake Valley monitoring. Mr. Allis responded to questions.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Mathis adjourned the meeting at 9:51 a.m.

